Spring is in the air, and moving the clock forward means longer evenings to enjoy the waterfront. This time of year means the Grand Prix is right around the corner. Every year we review the operations from the previous years and try to make operational adjustments if we can.

From my understanding, the event went pretty smoothly last year. Although parking was impacted, it never seemed to be a real problem. If you have any recommendations as to how we could improve it, please let me know.

We have not had much of a winter, and the weather says we are at the “official start of the boating season” which means the annual opening of our resident yacht clubs.

In the Long Beach marinas, we are very fortunate to have many functioning yacht clubs. In Alamitos Bay, we have the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, the Long Beach Yacht Club, the Seal Beach Yacht Club, the Navy Yacht Club of Long Beach, the Little Ships Fleet Yacht Club and the Bahia Marina Yacht Club. In the Shoreline Marina, the Shoreline Yacht Club is a vibrant as ever. These are all very active clubs with facilities that are busy most of the year, particularly on weekend, and are very active in local racing. In addition, we are home to the Long Beach Marina Yacht Club as well as a number of boating associations.

We have always considered yacht clubs to be partners of the marina operation, in that we normally share customers. Thriving yacht clubs benefit a marina operation as it gives boat owners another reason to be in the marina, and a desirable marina operation that offers quality, reasonable berthing benefits the local yacht clubs.

The City has always been supportive of our local yacht clubs. If you are not already a member of one (or more) of these yacht clubs, I highly recommend that you consider joining one. The social, educational, competitive and youth opportunities afforded by these clubs can do nothing but make your boating experience more enjoyable. Call a marina office if you need yacht club contact information.

The Alamitos Bay rebuild is moving forward with all water side activity scheduled to be complete by the end of March and additional land side construction, a dry boat storage yard and new restrooms, continuing. Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 28th to join us for a celebratory ribbon cutting ceremony along with festivities.

See you soon,
Elvira Hallinan
Tide Chart

April 2018

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Low Tide

High Tide

April 2018

Marina Reader

Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

Published monthly by the Marine Bureau of the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation & Marine

Marine Bureau
205 Marina Drive, Long Beach, CA 90803
www.longbeach.gov/park/marine

Contact
Kimarie Vestre (562) 570-3236
kimarie.vestre@longbeach.gov

Upcoming Events

Long Beach Grand Prix Press Day
April 3
For info: www.lbgp.com

Captain’s License Course
April 6
For info: www.SmartCaptains.com

Formula Drift
April 6-7
For info: www.formulad.com

Long Beach Grand Prix
April 13-15
For info: www.gplb.com

Congressional Cup
April 17
For info: www.lbyc.org

Earth Day Coastal Cleanup
April 21, 10 A.M.-noon
For info: (562) 570-1745

Boat Auction
May 19
For info: vilma.hernandez@longbeach.gov

Panthers At Sea
Coming in May
For info: J.townes@verizon.net

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Marine Patrol Emergency 911 or 9911 (Dock Phone)
Non Emergency (562) 435-6711
Shoreline Office (562) 570-4950
Alamitos Bay Office (562) 570-3215
Rainbow Harbor Office (562) 570-8636
Maintenance:
During working hours (562) 570-1582
After office hours (562) 570-3101
You may not have heard of them, but the Panthers at Sea are on a mission. The annual event will be held in May and is an amazing opportunity for many students as it will be their first time seeing the sea and being on a boat with an opportunity to sail.

The Panthers at Sea began in 1998 by science teacher David Braunstein with 45 students from Jordan High School. He wanted to share his passion for sailing with his students and the program has since expanded to nearly 100 students.

After safety training and requirements are met, small groups of students are assigned to a private sailing yacht along with a representative from the Long Beach School District. Volunteer skippers share their home waters with the students along with their experience and wisdom on sailing. The program has been credited by the faculty of Jordan in “setting a new course” for many students. Students are not only exposed to the lifestyle and skills of training, but are introduced to numerous educational outlets through sailing and first hand applications.

Co-Chair of the Panthers at Sea, James Townes, said that being in the water broadens student’s knowledge of the sea and gets them interested in science, technologies, engineering and math. Townes also intends on reaching the ultimate goal of expanding the Panthers at Sea to Students at Sea, encompassing interested Long Beach Unified High School students who wish to set sail on a path in the water.

The adopt-a-student program is available for a nominal fee. Sponsoring a student will cover their lunch and a tee shirt on the day of the event. In addition, volunteers and skippers and always welcome and very much appreciated.

To adopt a student, volunteer your services, or for more information on the Panthers at Sea program and the Jordan High School Summer Sailing Camp email or call James Townes at J.townes@verizon.net or (562) 951-5810.

Pure match racing means boats are precisely uniform, which creates an opportunity to truly measure sailing strategy and skills. In this regatta there is no margin for error: It is like a chess game on the water, and year after year the Congressional Cup delivers excitement.

In April, the Congressional Cup returns to Long Beach Yacht Club, and 2018 marks is 54th year of hosting the premier match race in sailing. World-renowned skippers will travel from New Zealand, England, and beyond to come and battle it out on the waters off Long Beach. Come enjoy the boats, the teams, the history and the excitement from our free viewing area at the Veterans Memorial Belmont Pier.

For additional information visit www.lbyc.org.
Electricity is a good thing, but, it is also extremely powerful and can cause severe damage if power cords are used improperly and are not well maintained. We are asking boaters to take precautions in order to prevent electrical hazards. It is important to use a grounded marine grade cord and ensure it has the capability to support the required current.

During cold winter months, boaters tend to use more electricity for heating and cooking. This extra draw of power tests the entire electrical system. Corrosion at the connections cause resistance and the heat can melt the protective insulation from wiring and cause boat fires or power outages.

The circuit breakers on the boat’s electrical panel and the blades on the power cord, adapters, and power inlets are examples of common areas that become corroded in the salty marine environment. Boat owners should make sure that the AC system is properly grounded and includes a Galvanic Isolator for safety. When in doubt, have them replaced or repaired by a certified marine electrician.

We are asking all of our customers to make sure their electrical connections are clean, waterproof, support the proper current size and marine grade quality. If an adapter is on the dock without a sealing collar while it is raining or in a puddle, it becomes a fire and shock hazard.

The picture above shows a 50A power cord with an adapter that did not have the proper waterproof collar. The expensive cord was damaged and had to be replaced which could have been prevented with the proper equipment. Inspect your boating equipment regularly to prevent damage and always use marine grade equipment and waterproof shore power connections. Your decisions can not only jeopardize you and your boat, but affect others in the marina as well.
Get ready, the Long Beach Marine Bureau will be holding an auction of impounded and abandoned vessels on May 19 at the Alamitos Bay Marina Office, 205 N. Marina Drive, Long Beach, CA 90803.

Inspection and registration begins at 8AM and the bidding begins at 9AM. Full payment is due the day of the sale, no later than 11A.M. Payment may be made with cash or credit card, Visa and Master card only.

All items offered “As Is – Where Is” and all sales are final. There will be no refunds or adjustments. There is no warranty either specific or implied as to the condition of the items offered for sale and we reserve the right to reject any offer or withdraw any item from the sale.

No vessels sold at the auction will be allowed in the City of Long Beach marinas for a period of six months.

For more information please call Vilma Hernandez at (562) 570-3215 or e-mail vilma.hernandez@longbeach.gov.

Advanced Maritime Education at SmartCaptains.com offers U.S. Coast Guard approved OUPV “6-Pack” 3-Weekend Captain’s License course and exams in Long Beach.

Whether you’re looking to operate passenger vessels for hire or simply want a professional-level education to increase your safety and seamanship, our courses fit multiple learning styles and our committed instructors are current, active commercial vessel captains and maritime educators who have decades of teaching and piloting experience. With their thumbs on the pulse of the industry they are excellent resources for information on employment, estimating sea time, and operating vessel-for-hire enterprises.

Topics presented are based on the four-part USCG exam: rules of the road (advanced), navigation general (buoys, weather, tides and currents, etc.), chart plotting and deck general and safety.

The next 3 weekend class begins Friday, April 6. The cost for this course is $695. For more information, visit: www.SmartCaptains.com or call (415) 798-7544.

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**The Friendly Club**

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Join El Dorado Nature Center and partners for the annual Earth Day Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, April 21 from 10A.M.–noon. Volunteers meet at the Belmont Pier lot at the end of Termino Ave and Ocean Blvd or the Cherry Beach lot at Junipero Ave and Ocean Blvd.

Participation is easy. All you need to do is show up at any site and sign in. We will provide all of the bags and gloves, or you can bring an old bag, bucket, and gloves. This event provides a great opportunity to bring together the local community for a common cause and increase awareness about issues related to marine debris and the health of our coastline.

Start your morning off right and meet us at the beach. For questions call (562) 570-1745.

Do your part for the Earth—it’s good for you and your community. Gloves and bags provided!

According to a 2013 report on the Annual Cost to California Communities of Reducing Litter That Pollutes Our Waterways, the study found:

• Out of the top ten California communities, Long Beach ranks sixth in cities spending the most per resident to manage litter.
• California communities spend $500,000,000 (half a billion) to combat, clean up litter, and prevent it from ending up in our waters.
• Debris is known to threaten sensitive ecosystems, harm hundreds of wildlife species, interfere with navigation, degrade natural habitats, cost millions of dollars in property damage, lost revenue from tourism, and commercial fishing activities and threaten human health and safety.
• Aquatic debris can not only damage fishing gear but also entangle propellers, clog intake valves, and sink vessels.
• Los Angeles County spends more than $18 million a year sweeping streets, clearing catch basins, cleaning up litter, and educating the public in an attempt to reduce debris.
• Reports of cleanup groups finding nothing to pick up do not exist.

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